

**Senate File 2278 - Introduced**

SENATE FILE 2278

BY KREIMAN

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act exempting specified entities from being required to  
2 solemnize, celebrate, promote, or perpetuate a marriage, or  
3 treat a marriage as valid.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1      Section 1. NEW SECTION. 595.21 Exemptions — marriage —  
2 solemnization, celebration, treating as valid.

3 1. A religious corporation, association, educational  
4 institution, society, charity, or fraternal organization, or an  
5 individual employed by such an entity while acting in the scope  
6 of employment shall not be required to do any of the following  
7 if doing so would cause such entity to violate the sincerely  
8 held religious beliefs to which the entity subscribes or such  
9 individual to violate the individual's sincerely held religious  
10 beliefs:

11     *a.* Solemnize a marriage.

12      *b.* Treat a marriage as valid.

13 c. Provide services, accommodations, advantages,  
14 facilities, goods, or privileges for a purpose related to the  
15 solemnization or celebration of a marriage.

16       2. Refusal to provide services, accommodations, advantages,  
17 facilities, goods, or privileges if in accordance with this  
18 section, shall not result in either of the following:

19      *a.*    Creation of any civil claim or cause of action.

b. An action by the state or a political subdivision, under any law of the state or a political subdivision, to penalize or withhold benefits from any individual or entity acting in accordance with this section including but not limited to laws regarding employment discrimination, housing, public accommodations, educational institutions, licensing, government contracts or grants, or tax-exempt status.

27 EXPLANATION

28       This bill provides exemptions for religious corporations,  
29 associations, educational institutions, societies, charities,  
30 and fraternal organizations, and individuals employed by such  
31 entities while acting in the scope of employment, from any  
32 requirement to solemnize a marriage, treat a marriage as valid,  
33 or provide services, accommodations, advantages, facilities,  
34 goods, or privileges for purposes related to the solemnization  
35 or celebration of a marriage, if by doing so would cause such

1 entity to violate the sincerely held religious beliefs to  
2 which the entity subscribes or the individual to violate the  
3 individual's sincerely held religious beliefs.

4     The bill provides that refusal to provide services,  
5 accommodations, advantages, facilities, goods, or privileges  
6 in accordance with the bill shall not result in creation of a  
7 civil claim or cause of action, or any action by the state or a  
8 political subdivision to penalize or withhold benefits from any  
9 individual or entity exempted under the bill, including but not  
10 limited to laws regarding employment discrimination, housing,  
11 public accommodations, educational institutions, licensing,  
12 government contracts or grants, or tax-exempt status.